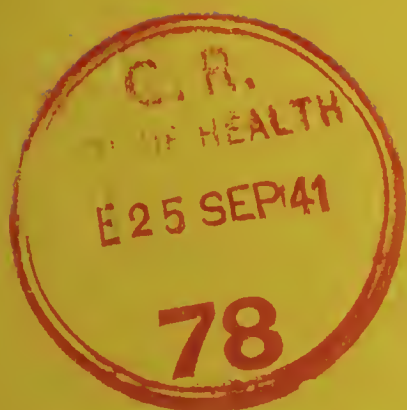


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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MILLOM.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1940.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

STAFF.

I. Spedding Jones,	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
J. Hankey,	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.H.P.H.H., A.M.I.S.E. Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.
A. Warburton,	Cert. R.S.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Miss. M. Constable,	Medical Officer's Clerk for both Rural District Council and County work.
J.H. Dawson,	Clerk to Sanitary Inspector. Joined His Majesty's Forces in March, 1940.



Council Offices,  
Millom.

September, 1941.

To the Chairman & Members of the  
Rural District Council of Millom.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1940.

The report is simply a general outline and full details are not given as in peace time.

As regards the general health of the community there was nothing outstanding to note. It will be noted that there were only three cases of Diphtheria during the year and none of these cases had been immunised.

I would like to draw your attention to the premises used in Millom for the slaughtering of animals which are highly unsatisfactory.

No progress was made with Sewerage Schemes, nor have the main Water Schemes materialised.

The industrial conditions in the area have greatly improved and there was practically no unemployment.

The A.R.P. Services again caused a considerable amount of work in this Department. I would like to thank the First Aid Personnel in this district for their voluntary work.

My thanks are due to the members of the staff for their loyal services and finally may I express my indebtedness to the Chairman and members of the Council for their continued support during the year.

I am,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

I. SPEDDING JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area of District in acres	...	90,911
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1940	...	12,180
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books	...	3,352
Rateable Value	...	£48,746
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£191



VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
LIVE BIRTHS - Legitimate	174	100	74
Illegitimate	11	6	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population:	15.18		
STILLBIRTHS - Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths:	21.16		
DEATHS -	192	104	88

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 15.76

Deaths from Puerperal Causes NIL

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 79.78

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 74.71

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 181.81

Fifteen Infants under one year of age died during 1940.

The following were the causes of death:-

Prematurity	6
Convulsions	1
Congenital Debility	2
Gastro Enteritis	2
Bronchitis	2
Pneumonia	1
Burns	1



Table showing the Vital Statistics for England and Wales as a whole and certain Groups in the County of Cumberland.

	Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Adjusted Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England and Wales	14.6	14.3	-	55
Administrative County of Cumberland	15.6	15.2	14.8	73
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)	16.4	16.	16.3	75
Rural Districts of Cumberland	15.1	14.7	13.9	71
RURAL DISTRICT OF MILLOM	15.18	15.76	14.34	79.78



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER.

Millom. During the year one new main was laid by the Water Department from Millom to Haverigg. In addition to this several mains in the town were renewed.

I am glad to say at the time of writing this report Mr. Wonnacott the Council's Water Engineer has a scheme before the Ministry to overcome the shortage of storage at Baystone Bank Reservoir.

Unfortunately it was not possible for the Council to do anything with regard to the filtration of water supplies, but it is hoped that this will be carried out when circumstances permit.

A few analyses of the water supplies were taken and these indicated the necessity for filtration.

Bootle. A new intake was made at Bootle to augment the deficient supply to that area. At the present time further work is now in progress. A new main was also laid from Bootle Station towards the shore.

Seascale. The Water Department installed an electrical driven Booster at Carleton Hall, Holmrook, during the year. This plant was installed to boost water to the Drigg and Seascale consumers. Since this installation complaints as to the sufficiency of the supply have been reduced to a minimum.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. The position is the same as reported last year. Nothing further has been done.

SCHOOLS. All the schools in the area were inspected. Eskdale High School is still without a water supply. All the schools in the area with the exception of Eskdale High and Eskdale Low schools have now water carriage sanitation.

The health of the school children was highly satisfactory.

The evacuee children received the same attention as our own county children. Most of these children have considerably improved with their stay in this district.



No air Raid shelters for school children were provided by the County Authority. At the time of writing this report some shelters are being built in Millom for this purpose.

HOUSING. Routine work was carried out during the year and the result can be considered satisfactory, taking into consideration the difficulties that had to be faced owing to the shortage of labour and materials. I endorse Mr. Hankey's remarks on this subject.

Considerable trouble and difficulties were experienced with regard to the housing of workmen in the area. The standard of accommodation thought sufficient by certain Contractors was really appalling. A personal investigation into the matter was carried out by the Member of Parliament for this district and it was mainly due to his intervention that conditions were much improved.

The new houses mentioned in last year's report are now in the course of erection. They were commenced in April, 1941.

MEAT INSPECTIONS. The slaughterhouse is highly unsatisfactory. I drew your attention to this fact in my last report and you decided that particulars be sent to the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Health. Your instructions were carried out, but up to the time of writing no Inspector from either Ministry has been to see the premises as requested. Animals still see others slaughtered which is one of the worst forms of cruelty to animals.

I know it is practically impossible to hope for a public abattoir under present circumstances, but I feel sure this is the only possible solution to the difficulties, and I also feel certain that the butchers in the area would welcome such a step, now that they have become used to the centralisation of slaughtering. I again recommend that representations be made to the Ministries concerned.

The only improvement in the premises has been the provision of extra racks for hanging carcasses. Undoubtedly this has helped to make the inspection of meat much easier.

With regard to the transport of meat I had occasion to complain of the way this was being carried out. It came to my notice that meat was being conveyed in a van which was alternatively used for the carrying of live stock. This has now been remedied and the standard of cleanliness is much improved. The men



transporting the meat now wear white overalls and caps when handling carcasses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board which came into operation at the beginning of the year is working satisfactorily.

At the end of 1940 we still had approximately 1100 temporary residents in the area including evacuee children. Taking this into consideration it is highly satisfactory to note the only type of Infectious Disease notified in any number was Measles. These were of a very mild type and caused no deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Very few immunisations were carried out during the year, but during the present year (1941) all the schools in the area have been visited for the purpose of immunisation. It is estimated that approximately 70% of the school population is protected against this disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING  
THE YEAR 1940.

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ..	10	2	-
Diphtheria ...	3	3	-
Enteric Fever ..	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Pneumonia ...	24	-	12
Erysipelas ...	6	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Measles ...	176	-	-
Whooping Cough	25	-	-



TUBERCULOSIS. The following table gives the particulars of the cases notified and the deaths from this disease:-

			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	...		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	...		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	...		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	...		-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 35	...		3	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	...		1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	...		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	...		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	...		4	7	4	-	1	2	-	-

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	23	26	49
Non-Pulmonary...	8	9	17

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SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1940.

To Dr. I.S. Jones,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have great pleasure in submitting to you my fifth Annual Report of the work carried out in this Department for the year ending December 31st, 1940.

The report, like its predecessor of 1939, will have to be somewhat curtailed, and I propose only to give you a brief resume of the several activities connected with the Department.

I can say with a feeling of perfect confidence that the district generally, in spite of great difficulties, has been kept under close supervision. This will have been observed from the reports which have been presented month by month and from such reports, it will have been seen that a satisfactory amount of work has been carried out.

HOUSING. The inspection of dwelling-houses has been carried out as in former years but it has been found almost impossible to have many of the works put in hand on account of the unsettling conditions, and at one time, the great shortage of labour and the scarcity of materials. However, fairly good results have been achieved as the following figures will show.

258 houses were subject to 1341 visits and 114 were rendered fit after informal action had been taken. Formal Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 was deemed necessary in 51 instances, and of these 29 received attention by the owners concerned and 10 were put in hand by this Local Authority in default of the owners after estimates of the required works had been obtained.

An appeal against Notices served under the Housing Acts by this Department, was put forward by the owner of four cottages in the Whicham Parish, and this appeal was dismissed in favour of the Council at the Millom County Court on November 12th, 1940.



The consideration, by the Council, on the cessation of hostilities of the establishment of a Repairs Department, is earnestly requested, in view of the lack of Contractors in this area; the difficulties I have had to contend with, both pre-war and since, as far as getting work attended to, have been enormous, and I am firmly of the opinion that much more could be accomplished if the Council would favourably consider this suggestion.

33 Cottages have been re-conditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The district, during the year, has been exceptionally free from any serious outbreaks of infectious disease; 34 dwelling houses were fumigated and bedding, clothing etc., were steam disinfected by the Council's apparatus.

A considerable quantity of clothing, etc., has been fumigated for the staffs employed by contractors in the district working on Government Works by an arrangement with the Contractors concerned.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION. In each of the monthly reports full details of the inspections and work done has been set out fully.

All the meat consumed in this area is slaughtered in one Central Slaughter-house, situated in Millom, and inspection of each carcase sent out has been made. This work makes a considerable demand on the time available, but it is work of importance and is efficiently carried out.

Conditions at the Slaughter-house in question have slightly improved during the year, but here again, the Council is reminded that this essential public service can still further be improved by the erection of a Public Abattoir directly under the control of the Authority, and I trust this will be borne in mind when the opportune time arrives.

During the year, some 7020 carcasses, including cattle, sheep, pigs and calves were examined.

The meat is conveyed to the various butchers in the area by means of a covered vehicle, which also comes under strict supervision with regard to cleanliness, the attendants are also given attention with regard to the handling and delivery of the meat.



FOOD PREMISES. Frequent inspections have been made of all premises where food is manufactured for human consumption, and I am pleased to report that on each occasion, everything was found to be satisfactory both in regard to the premises and also utensils.

SCAVENGING. A satisfactory standard has been maintained in this department throughout the year, although each vehicle and the employees are now working to their fullest capacity with the additional duty now imposed upon them in collecting Salvage material. Salvage, however, has provided a profitable source of income for this Authority and it is hoped that this will be continued even after the present emergency.

The work done by this section of the Department during the year is as follows:-

141,880 ashbins have been emptied, 250 ashpits have been cleared and in addition some 250 loads of refuse removed from the various parts of the rural area.

Collection of house refuse was commenced by the Council's vehicles in the Bootle Parish in September.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS. 151 inspections were made under these Orders and in view of the difficulty now being experienced owing to the shortage of labour at many farm premises, a fairly satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained. In several instances it was found necessary to take action under these Orders.

Samples of Milk taken during the year total 99, made up as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk	- 8
Accredited Milk	-66
Ungraded Milk	-25

SEWERAGE. Again I would remind you of the unsatisfactory condition of many of the main sewers in the Millom area, to which attention must be given immediately the opportunity presents itself.

Blockages on these sewers are very frequent due, mainly, to



defective pipes and bad levels which allow debris to collect and thus impede the flow.

Two dwelling-houses were found not to be connected with the Council's sewer, and as these came within the jurisdiction of the Public Health Acts, the owners were interviewed and the drains connected to the sewer.

Conversion from earth lavatories to the water carriage system were put in hand in 13 instances.

Sewage facilities in the outlying parts of the area are the same as stated in previous reports.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

J. HANKEY,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.



-13-

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